

PATENT
720001-2001.1REMARKS

An interview between the Examiner and Dennis Smid was held on October 23, 2003.

Mr. Smid wishes to thank the Examiner for his time and consideration during such interview.

Claims 3, 4, 19, and 21, and amended claims 2, 5-8, 10-14, 18, 20, and 23-28 are in this application.

Independent claim 8 has been amended herein in the manner discussed during the October 23rd interview. During such October 23rd interview, the Examiner indicated that such amended claim 8 would distinguish over Robell and Putz. (See Interview Summary.) For similar or somewhat similar reasons, it is submitted that amended independent claims 18, 20, and 23-28 are also distinguishable over Robell and Putz. Further, and as discussed during the October 23rd interview, it is respectfully submitted that there is support for the added features in the claims. See, for example, Figs. 2-4 of the present application.

Claims 2-7, 10-14, 19, and 21 are dependent from one of the amended independent claims and, as such, are also distinguishable over Robell and Putz for at least the same reasons.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that all of the claims now in this application (i.e., claims 2-8, 10-14, 18, 19, 20, 21 and 23-28) are allowable, and an early official notice to that effect is solicited.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned "Version with markings to show changes made."

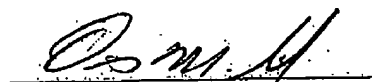
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Please charge any fees incurred by reason of this response to Deposit Account No. 50-

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Respectfully submitted,
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720001-2001.1"VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE"IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Canceled)
2. (Previously Presented) A panel according to claim 8, wherein marks of the first and second sets of lines each have first and second characteristics.
3. (Original) A panel according to claim 2, wherein the first characteristic is a first color and the second characteristic is a second color.
4. (Original) A panel according to claim 2, wherein the first characteristic is a solid line and the second characteristic is a dotted line.
5. (Previously Presented) A panel according to claim 8, wherein said panel is a piece of gypsum board.
6. (Previously Presented) A panel according to claim 8, wherein said panel is one of plywood, plyscore, and particle board.
7. (Previously Presented) A panel according to claim 8, wherein said distance has a value of 1 inch or less.

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8. (Currently Amended) A relatively thin frame covering panel adapted to be attached to a number of supports, said panel having at least two sides in which at least one of said sides includes a number of marks for facilitating the attaching of said panel to said number of supports, wherein said number of marks are arranged in first and second sets of substantially parallel lines in which the lines of the first set have a first distance of 2 inches or less therebetween and run in a first direction and are placed from a first end of said panel to a first opposite end thereof in a direction transverse to the extent of said lines of said first set and in which the lines of the second set have a second distance of 2 inches or less therebetween which is different from said first distance and run in a second direction perpendicular to said first direction and are placed from a second end of said panel to a second opposite end thereof in a direction transverse to the extent of said lines of said second set, wherein the first and second sets of substantially parallel lines pertaining to said number of marks are the only lines on said panel.--

9. (Canceled)

10. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 20, wherein said panel is a piece of gypsum board.

11. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 20, wherein said panel is one of plywood, plyscore, and particle board.

12. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 20, wherein marks of the first

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and second sets of lines each have first and second characteristics.

13. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 12, wherein the first characteristic is a first color and the second characteristic is a second color.

14. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 12, wherein the first characteristic is a solid line and the second characteristic is a dotted line.

Claims 15-17 (canceled)

18. (Currently Amended) A relatively thin frame covering panel adapted to be attached to a number of supports, said panel including a side having a number of marks arranged in first and second sets of substantially parallel lines in which one or more of said lines is adapted for facilitating the attaching of said panel to said number of supports, in which the lines of the first set have a first distance of 2 inches or less therebetween and run in a first direction and are placed from a first end of said panel to a first opposite end thereof in a second direction perpendicular to said first direction and in which the lines of the second set have a second distance of 2 inches or less therebetween which is different from said first distance and run in said second direction and are placed from a second end of said panel to a second opposite end thereof in said first direction, wherein the first and second sets of substantially parallel lines pertaining to said number of marks are the only lines on said panel.

19. (Original) A panel according to claim 18, wherein said distance has a value of 1 inch

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or less.

20. (Currently Amended) In a method for fabricating a relatively thin frame covering panel adapted to be attached to a number of supports, the improvement comprising the step of fabricating said panel to include a side having a number of marks arranged in first and second sets of substantially parallel lines in which one or more of said lines is adapted for facilitating the attaching of said panel to said number of supports, in which the lines of the first set have a first distance of 2 inches or less therebetween and run in a first direction and are placed from a first end of said panel to a first opposite end thereof in a second direction perpendicular to said first direction and in which the lines of the second set have a second distance of 2 inches or less therebetween which is different from said first distance and run in said second direction and are placed from a second end of said panel to a second opposite end thereof in said first direction, wherein the first and second sets of substantially parallel lines pertaining to said number of marks are the only lines on said panel.

21. (Original) A method according to claim 20, wherein said distance has a value of 1 inch or less.

22. (Canceled)

23. (Currently Amended) A relatively thin frame covering panel adapted to be attached to a number of supports, said panel having at least two sides in which at least one of said sides includes a number of marks for facilitating the attaching of said panel to said number of

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supports, wherein said number of marks are arranged in substantially parallel lines having a distance which has any value up to 2 inches therebetween and in which said lines are placed from one end of said panel to an opposite end thereof in a direction transverse to the extent of said lines, wherein the substantially parallel lines pertaining to said number of marks are the only lines on said panel in the same direction as said parallel lines.

24. (Currently Amended) A relatively thin frame covering panel adapted to be attached to a number of supports, said panel having at least two sides in which at least one of said sides includes a number of marks for facilitating the attaching of said panel to said number of supports, wherein said number of marks are arranged in first and second sets of substantially parallel lines in which the lines of the first set have a distance of any value up to 2 inches or less therebetween and run in a first direction and are placed from a first end of said panel to a first opposite end thereof in a direction transverse to the extent of said lines of said first set and in which the lines of the second set have a distance of any value up to 2 inches or less therebetween and run in a second direction perpendicular to said first direction and are placed from a second end of said panel to a second opposite end thereof in a direction transverse to the extent of said lines of said second set, wherein the first and second sets of substantially parallel lines pertaining to said number of marks are the only lines on said panel.

25. (Currently Amended) A relatively thin frame covering panel adapted to be attached to a number of supports, said panel including a side having a number of marks arranged in a plurality of substantially parallel lines in which one or more of said lines being adapted for facilitating the attaching of said panel to said number of supports, wherein said lines have a

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distance which has any value up to 2 inches or less therebetween and in which said lines are placed from one end of said panel to an opposite end thereof in a direction transverse to the extent of said lines, wherein the substantially parallel lines pertaining to said number of marks are the only lines on said panel in the same direction as said parallel lines.

26. (Currently Amended) In a method for fabricating a relatively thin frame covering panel adapted to be attached to a number of supports, the improvement comprising the step of fabricating said panel to include a side having a number of marks arranged in a plurality of substantially parallel lines in which one or more of said lines is adapted for facilitating the attaching of said panel to said number of supports and in which said lines have a distance which has any value up to 2 inches or less therebetween and in which said lines are placed from one end of said panel to an opposite end thereof in a direction transverse to the extent of said lines, wherein the substantially parallel lines pertaining to said number of marks are the only lines on said panel in the same direction as said parallel lines.

27. (Currently Amended) A relatively thin frame covering panel adapted to be attached to a number of supports, said panel including a side having a number of marks arranged in first and second sets of substantially parallel lines in which one or more of said lines is adapted for facilitating the attaching of said panel to said number of supports, in which the lines of the first set have a distance of any value up to 2 inches or less therebetween and run in a first direction and are placed from a first end of said panel to a first opposite end thereof in a second direction perpendicular to said first direction and in which the lines of the second set have said distance of any value up to 2 inches or less therebetween and run in said second direction and

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are placed from a second end of said panel to a second opposite end thereof in said first direction, wherein the first and second sets of substantially parallel lines pertaining to said number of marks are the only lines on said panel.

28. (Currently Amended) In a method for fabricating a relatively thin frame covering panel adapted to be attached to a number of supports, the improvement comprising the step of fabricating said panel to include a side having a number of marks arranged in first and second sets of substantially parallel lines in which one or more of said lines is adapted for facilitating the attaching of said panel to said number of supports, in which the lines of the first set have a distance which has any value up to 2 inches or less therebetween and run in a first direction and are placed from a first end of said panel to a first opposite end thereof in a second direction perpendicular to said first direction and in which the lines of the second set have said distance which has any value up to 2 inches or less therebetween and run in said second direction and are placed from a second end of said panel to a second opposite end thereof in said first direction, wherein the first and second sets of substantially parallel lines pertaining to said number of marks are the only lines on said panel.--